

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA**

Jonathan Petramala,	:	
	:	
Plaintiff,	:	
	:	Case No:
v.	:	
	:	DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL
RosieLee, LLC d/b/a Buddy By The Sea,	:	
	:	
Defendant.	:	

**COMPLAINT**

Plaintiff Jonathan Petramala (“*Plaintiff*”), by and through his undersigned counsel, for his Complaint against defendant RosieLee, LLC d/b/a Buddy By The Sea (“*Defendant*”) states and alleges as follows:

**INTRODUCTION**

1. This action seeks to recover damages for copyright infringement under the Copyright Act, 17 U.S.C §101 *et seq.*

2. Plaintiff created a video titled Historic 150-Year-Old Banyan Tree in Lahaina Fights for Survival After Deadly Maui Wildfire (the “*Video*”) in which Plaintiff owns the rights and licenses for various uses including online and print publications.

3. Upon information and belief, Defendant operates a clothing, footwear, headgear and apparel business with the registered tradename “Buddy by the Sea”.

4. In furtherance of its business, Defendant owns and operates an Instagram Account with the name @shop\_buddybythesea (the “*Account*”).

5. To support and grow its brand and brand awareness, Defendant, without permission or authorization from Plaintiff, actively copied and displayed the Video

on the Account and engaged in this misconduct knowingly and in violation of the United States copyright laws.

### **PARTIES**

6. Plaintiff Jonathan Petramala is an individual who is a citizen of the State of Florida and maintains a principal place of business in Pinellas County, Florida.

7. Upon information and belief, defendant RosieLee, LLC d/b/a Buddy By The Sea is a Pennsylvania limited liability company and maintains a principal place of business at 6765 East Moulston Road, Hanover in York County, Pennsylvania.

### **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

8. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction over the federal copyright infringement claims pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1338(a) and 28 U.S.C. §1331.

9. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendant because it maintains its principal place of business in Pennsylvania.

10. Venue is proper under 28 U.S.C. §1391(b)(2) because Defendant does business in this Judicial District and/or because a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to the claim occurred in this Judicial District.

### **FACTS COMMON TO ALL CLAIMS**

#### **A. Plaintiff's Copyright Ownership**

11. Plaintiff is a professional videographer by trade who is the legal and rightful owner of certain videos which Plaintiff commercially licenses.

12. Plaintiff has invested significant time and money in building Plaintiff's video portfolio.

13. Plaintiff has obtained active and valid copyright registrations from the United States Copyright Office (the "USCO") which cover many of Plaintiff's videos while many others are the subject of pending copyright applications.

14. Plaintiff's videos are original, creative works in which Plaintiff owns protectable copyright interests.

15. On August 12, 2023, Plaintiff first published the Video. A copy of a still frame image from the Video is attached hereto as Exhibit 1.

16. Plaintiff posted the Video on his TikTok account known as "@chasing\_stories."

17. In creating the Video, Plaintiff personally selected the subject matter, timing, lighting, angle, perspective, depth, lens, and camera equipment used to capture the image and made each and every artistic determination necessary for the creation of the work.

18. On November 2, 2023, the Video was registered by the USCO under Registration No. PA 2-444-353.

19. Plaintiff created the Video with the intention of it being used commercially and for the purpose of display and/or public distribution.

## **B. Defendant's Infringing Activity**

20. Defendant is the registered owner of the Account and is responsible for its content.

21. Defendant is the operator of the Account and is responsible for its content.

22. The Account is a key component of Defendant's popular and lucrative commercial enterprise.

23. Upon information and belief, Defendant has not implemented adequate internal policies to verify copyright ownership before content use, indicating a gross negligence in legal compliance, which is essential for a company with Defendant's reach, capabilities, and level of sophistication.

24. Upon information and belief, Defendant's internal policies, if any, are either not designed to verify copyright ownership before content use or are

systematically ignored, indicating a willful, recurring disregard for copyright compliance.

25. Defendant's failure to adopt or effectively enforce internal copyright policies, if any, indicates *de facto* willful infringement.

26. On or about August 13, 2023, without permission or authorization from Plaintiff, Defendant volitionally copied and displayed the Video on the Account as part of a social media post at URL: [https://www.instagram.com/p/Cv4ngF\\_Aqk9/](https://www.instagram.com/p/Cv4ngF_Aqk9/). A copy of a screengrab of the Account including the Video is attached hereto as Exhibit 2.

27. Upon information and belief, the Video was copied and displayed by Defendant without license or permission, thereby infringing on Plaintiff's copyrights in and to the Video (hereinafter the unauthorized uses set forth above is referred to as the "*Infringement*").

28. The Infringement includes a URL ("*Uniform Resource Locator*") for a fixed tangible medium of expression that was sufficiently permanent or stable to permit it to be communicated for a period of more than a transitory duration and therefore constitutes a specific infringement.

29. The Infringement is an exact copy of Plaintiff's original video that was directly copied and displayed by Defendant on the Account.

30. Upon information and belief, Defendant takes an active and pervasive role in the content posted on the Account, including, but not limited to copying, posting, selecting, commenting on, and/or displaying images including but not limited to Plaintiff's Video.

31. Upon information and belief, the Video was willfully and volitionally posted to the Account by Defendant.

32. Upon information and belief, Defendant was aware of facts or circumstances from which the determination regarding the Infringement was

apparent. Defendant cannot claim that it was not aware of the infringing activities, including the specific Infringement which forms the basis of this complaint, since such a claim would amount to only willful blindness to the Infringement on the part of Defendant.

33. Upon information and belief, Defendant engaged in the Infringement knowingly and in violation of applicable United States copyright laws.

34. Specifically, Defendant's display of the Video on the Account identifies Plaintiff's TikTok account, @chasing\_stories.

35. Defendant therefore knew or should have known that Plaintiff was the creator of the Video.

36. Upon information and belief, Defendant has the legal right and ability to control and limit the infringing activities on the Account and exercised and/or had the right and ability to exercise such right.

37. Upon information and belief, Defendant monitors the content on its Account.

38. Upon information and belief, Defendant has received a financial benefit directly attributable to the Infringement.

39. Upon information and belief, the Infringement increased traffic to the Account and, in turn, caused Defendant to realize an increase its business revenue.

40. Upon information and belief, a large number of people have viewed the unlawful copy of the Video on the Account.

41. As of the date of filing this complaint, Defendant's Account has over 64,000 followers.

42. Upon information and belief, Defendant at all times had the ability to stop the reproduction and display of Plaintiff's copyrighted material.

43. Defendant's use of the Video harmed the actual market for the Video.

44. Defendant's use of the Video, if widespread, would harm Plaintiff's

potential market for the Video.

45. On February 6, 2024, Plaintiff, via counsel, served a letter seeking to address the complaints contained herein concerning Defendant's infringement of Plaintiff's rights-protected work.

46. Thereafter, on April 15, 2024, Plaintiff, via counsel, served a letter seeking to address the complaints contained herein concerning Defendant's infringement of Plaintiff's rights-protected work.

47. Despite Plaintiff's efforts and willingness to address Defendant's infringing activity Defendant failed to respond and Plaintiff was forced to seek judicial intervention for Defendant's infringing activity.

48. Further, despite Plaintiff's notifications to Defendant concerning its infringing activity, Defendant continues to infringe on Plaintiff's work thereby establishing the willful nature of its conduct.

49. As a result of Defendant's misconduct, Plaintiff has been substantially harmed.

#### FIRST COUNT

##### ***(Direct Copyright Infringement, 17 U.S.C. §501 et seq.)***

50. Plaintiff repeats and incorporates by reference the allegations contained in the preceding paragraphs, as though set forth in full herein.

51. The Video is an original, creative work in which Plaintiff owns a valid copyright.

52. The Video is properly registered with the USCO and Plaintiff has complied with all statutory formalities under the Copyright Act and under regulations published by the USCO.

53. Plaintiff has not granted Defendant a license or the right to use the Video in any manner, nor has Plaintiff assigned any of its exclusive rights in the copyright to Defendant.

54. Without permission or authorization from Plaintiff and in willful violation of Plaintiff's rights under 17 U.S.C. §106, Defendant improperly and illegally copied, reproduced, distributed, adapted, and/or publicly displayed works copyrighted by Plaintiff thereby violating one of Plaintiff's exclusive rights in its copyrights.

55. Defendant's reproduction of the Video and display of the Video constitutes willful copyright infringement.

56. Upon information and belief, Defendant willfully infringed upon Plaintiff's copyrighted Video in violation of Title 17 of the U.S. Code, in that Defendant used, published, communicated, posted, publicized, and otherwise held out to the public for commercial benefit, Plaintiff's original and unique Video without Plaintiff's consent or authority, by using it on the Account.

57. As a result of Defendant's violations of Title 17 of the U.S. Code, Plaintiff is entitled to an award of actual damages and disgorgement of all of Defendant's profits attributable to the infringements as provided by 17 U.S.C. § 504 in an amount to be proven or, in the alternative, at Plaintiff's election, an award for statutory damages against Defendant for each infringement pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 504(c).

58. As a result of the Defendant's violations of Title 17 of the U.S. Code, the court in its discretion may allow the recovery of full costs as well as reasonable attorney's fees and costs pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 505 from Defendant.

59. As a result of Defendant's violations of Title 17 of the U.S. Code, Plaintiff is entitled to injunctive relief to prevent or restrain infringement of Plaintiff's copyright pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 502.

#### **JURY DEMAND**

60. Plaintiff hereby demands a trial of this action by jury.

## **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

**WHEREFORE**, Plaintiff respectfully requests judgment as follows:

That the Court enters a judgment finding that Defendant has infringed on Plaintiff's rights to the Video in violation of 17 U.S.C. §501 *et seq.* and therefore award damages and monetary relief as follows:

- a. finding that Defendant infringed Plaintiff's copyright interest in and to the Video by copying and displaying it without a license or consent;
- b. for an award of actual damages and disgorgement of all of Defendant's profits attributable to the infringements as provided by 17 U.S.C. § 504(b) in an amount to be proven or, in the alternative, at Plaintiff's election, an award for statutory damages against Defendant for each infringement pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 504(c), whichever is larger;
- c. for an order pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 502(a) enjoining Defendant from any infringing use of any of Plaintiff's works;
- d. for costs of litigation and reasonable attorney's fees against Defendant pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 505
- e. for pre-judgment interest as permitted by law; and
- f. for any other relief the Court deems just and proper.

DATED: May 7, 2025

**SANDERS LAW GROUP**

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